



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

No 622

September 2014

South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend

The next South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend will be held on 20 and 21 September 2014. South African Radio League members are invited to take part in a 5 MHz activity weekend dedicated to propagation research - 5 250 and 5 260 kHz. The activity is focussed from 13:00 - 20:00 CAT on each day and comprises various activities during designated time slots. The activity is open to all South African Radio League members and to all radio amateurs living permanently outside the borders of South Africa. More details on the South African Radio League web at www.sarl.org.za.

ICASA Draft IMT Roadmap may have Implications for Amateur Radio

On 27 August, ICASA published a 233 page document giving notice regarding the draft International Mobile Telecommunications roadmap for consultation. It is also known by its abbreviation IMT Roadmap. Comments are invited and have to reach ICASA by 7 October. The IMT Roadmap proposal may have implications for amateur radio in the 70 cm band as well as for the amateur allocations in the 2 and 5 GHz bands.

The SARL Regulatory workgroup members have been requested to study the Government Gazette and a teleconference is scheduled for later this month to assess the implications and formulate a document for submission to ICASA. A copy of the document, gazette number 37948, is available for download from the ICASA website. SARL members

*December 2014 is
Youngsters on the Air
month!"*

can also request a copy of the Gazette by sending an email request to sarlregwg@sarl.org.za

New International Mainland Africa Contest Proposal

What started out as an e-mail discussion between Pierre, ZS6A, and Roger, ZS6RJ, about the current SARL "Blue Book" contest rules and proposed changes, evolved into a chat about the potential for an international SARL contest. Towards the end of July, Pierre opened up a forum topic covering this idea under the contests and awards forum section in the SARL discussion forum.

It quickly became apparent that aside from Roger and Pierre's thoughts in this direction, a lot of other South African radio amateurs had brought this idea up in the past, either during informal discussions or at various amateur radio meetings and events. This resulted in a small group of South African radio amateurs forming to further this idea.

The proposal rapidly progressed into one focused on the idea of implementing the first international DX contest for the whole continent of Africa. Currently dubbed the "All Mainland Africa, All-mode International DX Contest, or "AMA" for short, a group of eight South African radio amateurs have put pen to paper and drafted an AMA contest proposal for an annual 24 hour event covering all modes.

The proposal is designed as the initial framework to share with all radio amateurs in South Africa and provide an opportunity for anyone to get involved with good ideas changes or constructive criticism to be included in the final proposal.

Currently, the new contest proposal is updated weekly and a different version published. Since last week, a link to the draft proposal has been posted on the SARL discussion forum and is open to all for general comment and feedback. The latest proposal is version 4, and we encourage all radio amateurs to visit the SARL discussion forum and take a look under the contest and awards section, read the thread, and provides us with your feedback and ideas to potentially improve the proposal. The plan is to gather feedback for another 2 to 3 weeks via this route, after which a finalized proposal will be handed to the SARL for further consideration as an official contest to be included on the annual calendar and governed by a contest committee.

To gain some international perspective, the contest proposal is also currently being shared with some well-known overseas DXers with previous Africa DXpedition experience, as well as the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group (BARTG) to gain their insight and feedback on the RTTY perspective of this contest. The contest is also seen as an opportunity to be a useful catalyst for promoting RTTY in the African region.

Your feedback may be provided via the SARL forum, or directly to Roger, ZS6RJ, who is coordinating and drafting the proposal on behalf of involved amateurs. His email details are available both on QRZ.com and the SARL website.

Geoff Levey, ZS6C, is taking the proposal along with him to the upcoming IARU Region 1 Conference (21 to 27 September) in Bulgaria and use the opportunity to share this idea with the African delegates at conference.

DX Magazine's "2014 Most Wanted" Survey

Carl, N4AA, Editor of QRZ DX and The DX Magazine, reports: "The DX Magazine

September

5 - Casual Day; Secretary's Day
 6 - Cellar2Cellar Trail Run and Wine Experience, Stellenbosch
 6 and 7 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; Staafwater Trail Run & MTB Cghallenge, Caledon
 11 - Closing date October RAE
 13 - Radio Technology in Action in Pretoria; Baa-Baa-Licious Braai Feast, Riebeeck Valley; Baviaanskloof Trail Run, Geelhouthis
 16 - World Ozone day
 21 to 27 - IARU Region 1 General Conference, Alhena, Bulgaria
 24 - Heritage Day; National Braai Day
 24 to 28 - Oceana Hout Bay Seafood Festival
 25 - Rosh Hashanah
 27 and 28 - CQ WW RTTY Contest

October

2 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
 3 - Schools close
 4 - Spring QRP Contest; RTA in Port Elizabeth; Yom Kippur
 5 - RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
 6 - World Habitat Day
 11 and 12 - AWA AM/SSB Contest
 13 - Schools open
 16 - RAE
 17 to 19 - JOTA
 18 - CQ Hou Koers
 25 and 26 - CQ WW DX

is celebrating its Silver (25th) anniversary this year. I am pleased to note that the first DX Magazine's Most Wanted Survey was reported in the October 1989 issue. It's been conducted every year since then, making this its 25th anniversary. Is that a record?? I am pleased to announce that the 2014 Most Wanted Survey is now on-line and ready for use and it will remain active until on or about 15 October. It was also published in the current issue of the magazine, which is in the mail at this time. Please pass along the information to your friends and encourage them to participate, so we can get the most input possible." The URL for the survey is

<http://www.dxpub.com/survey/survey2014.html>

Results of the South African Radio



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org 2
 And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp

League HF CW Contest

The committee received 20 contest logs and 1 check log for the HF CW Contest held on 31 August 2014. Four of the logs were from Japan, India, Saudi Arabia and Madagascar.



- 1st Roger Jones, ZS6JP, 198 points
- 2nd Joop Hesp, ZS6JP, 198 points
- 3rd Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN, 182 points
- 4th Pierre van Deventer, ZS6A, 178 points
- 5th Vidi la Grange, ZS1EL, 174 points
- Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR, 174 points
- 7th Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, 168 points
- 8th Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, 130 points
- 9th Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 126 points
- 10th John Kramer, ZS5J, 118 points
- 11th Bruce Dunn, ZS5XT, 112 points
- 12th Bruce Rowan, ZS6BK, 94 points
- 13th Barry Brokensha, ZS6AJY, 82 points
- 14th Wally Moll, ZS6BCI, 68 points
- 15th Jack Welch, 5R8SV (AI4SV), 60 points
- 16th Vincent Harrison, ZS6BTY, 48 points
- 17th Geoff Levey, ZS6C, 18 points
- 18th Heribert Lennertz, 7Z1HL, 10 points
- Arasu Manohar, VU2UR, 10 points
- 20th Eiji Ebina, JH1OES, 6 points
- Check log - Abe Zwiegelaar, ZS1ZS (48 points)

Best score achieved on a single band - Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, with 124 points on 20 metres.

These 21 radio amateurs made 815 QSOs (330 on 20 metres (816 points), 333 on 40 metres (802 points) and 152 on 80 metres (414 points)) with 80 three-banders.

Club Competition

- 1st West Rand ARC, 452 points
- 2nd Pretoria ARC, 222 points
- 3rd Boland ARC, 174 points
- 4th Port Elizabeth ARS, 168 points
- 5th Lichtenburg ARC, 130 points
- 6th Bloemfontein ARC, 126 points
- 7th Zululand ARC, 118 points
- 8th Highway ARC, 112 points
- 9th Centurion ARC, 68 points

10th VU Contest Group, 10 points

Congratulations to Roger, ZS6RJ, and the West Rand ARC.

Combined Results of the SARL HF Phone, Digital and CW Contests

Now we add all the results of the three SARL August contests together. Let us start with the Club Contest for a change.

- 1st West Rand ARC, 1 100 points
- 2nd Bloemfontein ARC, 735 points
- 3rd Pretoria ARC, 706 points
- 4th Port Elizabeth ARS, 312 points
- 5th Boland ARC, 298 points
- 6th Highway ARC, 236 points
- 7th Lichtenburg ARC, 166 points
- 8th Centurion ARC, 162 points
- 9th Durban ARC, 128 points
- 10th Zululand ARC, 118 points
- 11th Soutpansberg ARC, 104 points
- 12th Cape Town ARC, 44 points
- 13th VU Contest Group, 10 points

Now to the individual results

- 1st Roger Jones, ZS6RJ, 517 points
- 2nd Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 445 points
- 3rd Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN, 363 points
- 4th Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR, 356 points
- 5th Vidi la Grange, ZS1EL, 273 points
- 6th Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, 268 points
- 7th Joop Hesp, ZS6JP, 222 points
- 8th Noel Hammond, ZR6DX, 194 points
- 9th Theo Bresler, ZS6TVB, 186 points
- 10th Pierre van Deventer, 178 points
- 11th Bruce Dunn, ZS5XT, 173 points
- 12th Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, 166 points
- 13th Wally Moll, ZS6BCI, 162 points
- 14th Marinus Willemstijn, ZS6MAW, 155 points
- 15th Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ, 144 points
- Warren Reilly, ZS4W, 144 points
- 17th Bruce Rowan, ZS6BK, 137 points
- 18th John Kramer, ZS5J, 118 points
- 19th Brian Jones, ZS6BV, 104 points
- 20th Geoff Levey, ZS6C, 100 points
- 21st Pierre Holtzhausen, ZS6PJH, 95 points



- 22nd Kurt Linsin, ZS5KL, 86 points
 23rd Barrie Brokensha, ZS6AJY, 82 points
 24th Heather Holland, ZS6YE, 67 points
 25th Garth Wheeler, ZS5GMW, 63 points
 26th Nico Oelofse, ZS4N, 60 points
 Jack Welch, 5R8SV (AI4SV), 60 points
 28th Allan Saul, ZS1LS, 53 points
 29th Vincent Harrison, 48 points
 30th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 44 points
 Michael Wolffe, ZS1CO, 44 points
 32nd Louis de Bruin, ZS5LP, 42 points
 33rd Dennis Green, ZS4BS, 33 points
 34th Michael Roodt, ZS4BHF, 31 points
 35th Wynand Wolmarans, V51WW, 27 points
 36th Brian Best, ZS5SB, 26 points
 37th Andre Fransman, ZS1F, 25 points
 38th Stean Snyman, ZS1SGS, 23 points
 39th Frans Marais, ZS4FM, 22 points
 40th Johann vd Berg, 21 points
 41st Heribert Lennertz, 7Z1HL, 10 points
 Arasu Manohar, VU2UR, 10 points
 43rd Eiji Ebina, JH1OES, 6 points

Congratulations to Roger, ZS6RJ, and the West Rand ARC

African Islands



ZD9, Tristan Da Cunha Island. Operators Paul, ZS1S, and Nigel, G3TXF, currently on the ship, "SA Agulhas II", will be active as ZD9ZS (SSB) and ZD9XF (CW) from Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) between 10 September and 3 October. QSL ZD9ZS via ZS1S and ZD9XF via G3TXF. There is a Tristan da Cunha "YAHOO Group List", and it lists the departure of the "SA Agulhas II" and its passengers at

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tristan-da-cunha/conversations/messages/2813>

S7, Seychelles. Christian "Chris", HB9LCA, will be active as S79LCA from the Seychelles between 6 and 27 September. While there, he plans to activate three of Seychelles islands. Activity will be on 40 - 6 metres using mostly CW with some SSB, but no Digital modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.

EF8, Canary Islands. Jaime, WP3A, will be active as EF8U from the Las Palmas Contest Club radio station (EA8URL) on Gran Canaria Island (AF-004) during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (25 and 26 October) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power/Assisted entry. QSL via LoTW or direct to EA8URE.

FR, Reunion Island. Operators Willi, DJ7RJ, and Sven, DJ2CW, will be active as FR/home call from Reunion Island starting 30 September. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres using CW and SSB. Sven will only stay 8 October, while Willi will stay until 30 October. QSL via their home call signs.

Lampedusa, AF-019. The IG9Y Lampedusa Contest Team will continue the fun of last year and enter in this year's CQ WW DX SSB and CW Contests from the same northern location on the Island of Lampedusa - Zone 33 (African Italy) with two international Multi/Multi teams of about 30 operators in total using the new call sign IO9Y. All info can be found on the IG9Y-LCT Web site at <http://ig9y.com>. IG9Y is a lone African Entity that counts in the CQ DX Marathon!



African DX

XT, Burkina Faso. Ivaylo, LZ1CLM, is now active as XT2CML from Bobo-Dioulasso until 30 September. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. Equipment is a FT-857 with 100 w, into an off-centre Dipole 20 m long. QSL via LZ1CLM, direct or by the LZ QSL Bureau.





9J, Zambia. Wessel Bouwer, ZS6AWW, is working in Lusaka for the next 3 years. Wessel is active as 9J2AWW on 10, 12, 15, 20, 30, 40 80 and 160 metres. QSL via ZS6AWW to the SARL Bureau.

TZ6BB QRT. Fernando, EA4BB / TZ6BB, informs OPDX: "I have been reassigned to Nigeria and I will go there next Monday (8 Sept 2014). I was kind of expecting this, though not so soon. This means, unfortunately, that TZ6BB will go QRT on Sunday evening (7 Sept 2014). I will still come back to Mali by mid November or so, for a few days, but my task then will be to dismantle the station, pack up all my things and then return to 5N land to stay. I will of course do my best to be on the air from there, but I need first to sort a license, QTH, station, etc. Not sure how long that is going to take but I'm afraid it won't happen overnight. I am leaving some of my radio equipment (including a nice HF transceiver) behind, here in Mali, as a little present to a local ham in the hope he will keep Mali active on the bands in the future. Let's see what happens."

E3, Eritrea (Update/Press Release - Tentative schedules). Jay, JA1TRC, reports: "Zorro will leave Japan in the morning of Sunday 14 September, and scheduled to arrive Asmara on Monday 15 September at 03:15 local time (UTC+3). He plans to set-up the station/antenna after arrival at the hotel in the morning, or evening after a meeting. He will be

occupied by full of meetings during Tuesday 16 to Friday 19. Very little chance for activity.

On Saturday 20 and Sunday 21, there will be a good chance for him to be active about 20 hours max if he decides not to sleep. He plans to shut down the station in the evening of Monday 22 and leave the hotel at night. Then he will leave Asmara at 04:15 local time. He should be back in Japan at noon on Wednesday 24 September 2014."

V5, Namibia. Sebastian, OE3SZA, will be active as V5/OE3SZA from Namibia between 29 October and 11 November. Activity will be SSB only running QRP with an Yaesu FT-817. QSL via OE3SZA, direct or by the OEVSV Bureau.

Z2, Zimbabwe. Look for Z21EME to be active from Zimbabwe (WW Loc KG58gh) on 6 m to 23 cm EME between 1 and 8 November 2014. Operators include Lins, PA3CMC (Z21CMC), John, ZS6JON (Z21EME), Chris PA2CHR (Z21CHR), and Paul ZS6NK (Z21NK). Equipment will be 6 m 11 el m2; 2 m 2 x 10el X-pole DK7ZB; 70 cm 1 x 38 el M2; 23 cm 67 el. QSL goes via PA3CMC, Bureau or direct (L Berben, Simonshoek 2, 5768 CS Meijel, Netherlands).

The Gambia. Steve G3VMW, Alan G3XAQ, Mark MODXR and Iain MOPCB will be active from the old MW Radio Syd site, near Banjul, The Gambia, from 15 to 26 January 2015 with the call sign C5X. They plan to have two high-power stations with Elecraft K3/100 radios and KPA-500 amplifiers, operating on CW, SSB, RTTY and some PSK. There will be two Spiderbeams for HF; 160 m and 80 m verticals on an 18 m Spiderpole and dipoles/verticals for 30 and 40 m. There will be some activity in the CQ WW 160 m Contest during their last weekend in The Gambia. QSL Manager is Charles, M0OXO, and logs will be uploaded daily to ClubLog and to LotW. Charles will provide an Online QSL Request Service (OQRS) and also deal with direct or Bureau requests.





JOTA and CQ Hou Koers - October 2014

These two events will be on the air over the weekend of 17, 18 and 19 October and hopefully you and your club have made contact with the local Scout Group, Guide Company or Voortrekker Commando and started the arrangements.

If you are looking for a Scout Group near you, visit <http://scouts.org.za/scouts-near-you/>, for Girl Guide Companies, visit <http://www.girlguides.org.za/old/index.php/regions> and for the Voortrekkers, visit <http://www.voortrekkers.org.za/Gebiede.htm> or contact Andries, ZS6VL, at andries.visagie@natref.com.

Do something special for the youth of our country.

If you would like a special JOTA or CQ Hou Koers call sign, complete the ICASA application form, add a motivation and submit it via the South African Radio League.



Scandinavian Activity Contest 2014

Rune, SM5COP, informs that the 2014 edition of the Scandinavian Activity Contest is about to hit radios everywhere. The friendly neighbouring nations of the North are emerging from their huts to prepare for their annual fluttery "Polar Battle," before they settle in for a freezing wintertime.

Together with 1 000+ stations in each part, we thus warmly welcome your participation on 80 to 10 m as follows:

- * CW: 20 to 21 September, 12:00 to 12:00 UTC
- * SSB: 11 to 12 October, 12:00 to 12:00 UTC

Along with updated rules, we have introduced a sponsored plaque program. The plaques include regional offerings and novelties such as plaques for "Best Accuracy."

* Results booklet from SAC 2013, including an analysis by OH2BH -

<http://www.sactest.net/blog/sac-2013-result-booklet/>

* Updated rules, including new assisted categories <http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/>

* New sponsored plaques

<http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/sac-sponsored-plaque-program/>

* Learn about propagation to Scandinavia

<http://www.sactest.net/blog/propagation/>

* Announce your activity and challenge your friends

http://www.sactest.net/blog/announce_form/

73 & CU! SM5AJV, LB1GB, OH6KZP, OZ3ABE
SAC Contest Committee

Web: <http://www.sactest.net>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/ScandinavianActivityContest>

E-mail: support@sactest.net

Cabrillo Certificate

How do you make a small fortune? Start with a big one and get into ham radio contesting! So goes the saying - obviously we don't do this for the big winner's purses. Instead, certificates are a great way to enjoy our successes and look good up there on the wall. Not everybody wants them, though, so why should contest sponsors go to the considerable effort and expense of providing undesired wallpaper? Well, for the CQ World Wide Contests, they won't have to with addition of the new Cabrillo Certificate: tag <http://cqww.com/blog/?p=345>. A simple YES or NO value (the default is, of course, YES - GIMME THAT WALLPAPER!) lets the sponsors know whether or not to generate and mail your paper certificate (you'll still be able to download an electronic certificate). If the new tag is not used, the assumption will be that the certificate should be sent. (Thanks, Randy K5ZD)



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp

Online visualisation tool

RW4LR has developed an interesting online visualisation tool for DXCC entities, CQ zones, ITU zones, time zones, IOTA groups, and more. Each can be turned on and off as an overlay to a world map - a very interesting exercise.

http://maps.kosmosnimki.ru/api/index.html?L_DXND (Thanks, Zoli, HA1AG)

W4MPY QSL

While rumours abound, it's good to know that the long-time W4MPY QSL printing business <http://www.w4mpy.com/> is still in business. Although Wayne has had health problems, his daughter and grand-daughter have taken over the business and are filling orders with about a 2-week turnaround. The phone number is still inactive so please use the website if you want to get in touch with them. And our best wishes to W4MPY, as well. (Thanks, Fred, W2AAB)

Word to the Wise

From Tim, K3LR, a ham who should know about putting up towers and antennas comes this piece of advice for everyone who puts up a tower. "It doesn't matter how high the tower is - PLEASE USE THE RIGHT STUFF! If anyone uses the wrong tower hardware and does not have problems or does not get killed, I call that "luck". Do you want to bet your life on luck? Use the EXACT product that is specifically designed for tower applications. Do not take short cuts! Pay attention to the tower, guy wire, and antenna manufacturer's instructions. What is your life or one of your friend's lives worth? PLEASE BE SAFE."

CQ WW News

The line scores and tables of top scores from the 2014 CQ WW WPX SSB contest are now available online as a downloadable PDF document

http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_wpx_contest/cq_ww_wpx_ssb_contest/2014_cq_ww_wpx_ss

[b_contest/2014_cq_ww_wpx_ssb_tables_b.pdf](#) (Thanks, Terry N4TZ)

CQ WW Director, Randy K5ZD, reports, "N2NC and his team of typists have added two more years, 1969 and 1970, to the CQ WW Online Score database http://www.cqww.com/score_db.htm.

Hard to believe now, but the CQ WW in 1969 only had 1 376 logs on SSB and 1 628 on CW. The world high winner in that year (both modes!) was Jim Neiger (now N6TJ) operating as 9Y4AA." Jim, N6TJ, responds, "My "killer station" was comprised of a Collins S-Line and a 30L-1 amplifier - never pushing the four 811A's past 600 watts out. Antennas were a Hygain TH6 tribander, Hygain 14AVQ vertical for 40 and inverted V for 80. No 160. Of course, no computer. No memory keyer. Paper and pencil, with eraser. As I seem to recall, I did 48 hours straight, both modes, having just moved from ZD8Z three months earlier, where 48-straight was a must. Oh to be young(er) again."

Operating Tip

In a RTTY contest, to help get your call and exchange through noise and QRM, including a space at the end of your exchange or call helps keep the FSK decoder from appending an extraneous letter at the end due to interference. Also make sure that your audio levels for AFSK are properly adjusted. (Thanks, Mark N2QT)

How to detect radio waves

Sandeep Baruah, VU2MUE, has released a video showing a simple circuit which can be used to demonstrate electromagnetic radiation to young people.

Take 30 cm of copper wire to form a loop with one OA85 point contact germanium diode and a Light Emitting Diode (LED) in series in series. This simple passive device detects the electromagnetic radiation from the mobile phone.

When the radio waves from the mobile phone passed through the copper loop, the free electrons in the copper wire starts oscil-



lating at the frequency of the mobile phone. This oscillating current of electrons is converted to DC current by the Germanium diode and the LED (Light Emitting Diode). Only a single LED without the diode should also work but due to very high internal capacitance of the LED, the copper loop de-tunes.

Full details are given at http://www.creative-science.org.uk/mobile_LED.html.

Watch the video at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vimFkG1g_vk&feature=player_embedded

Technical Topics from K9YC

Jim, K9YC, has generated another interesting publication, this time on the noise emissions from transmitters, both close to the carrier (such as during CW operation) and over a wide bandwidth. The analysis and graphs are based on data measured by the ARRL Lab as part of their product review evaluations and published in *QST*.
<http://k9yc.com/TXNoise.pdf>

A companion presentation by Bob, K6XX, <http://k9yc.com/K6XXAmpTalk.pdf> is also available, showing how to configure and operate so as to produce a cleaner signal. With receivers so good they can hear a pin drop at the antipodes, it's now time to start working on cleaning up our transmitted signals so they don't cover up those weak signals or clobber the station on the next channel (or band!).

More from K9YC as Jim discusses avoiding hum and buzz without transformers and setting computer audio playback levels <http://k9yc.com/HamInterfacing.pdf> and http://k9yc.com/USB_Interfaces.pdf.

His advice applies to both SSB and digital modes, with the additional observation that inexpensive USB sound cards work better than internal computer sound card ICs.

One more note from the prolific K9YC as Jim observes that most vehicle power systems are not set up to minimize the area formed by a radio's power supply wiring. If the current return (negative) lead is not kept

with the supply (positive) lead all the way to and from the battery, those paths form large-area loops that are ideal for common-mode coupling! This is a recipe for noise pickup and RFI! When possible use heavy twisted-pair or zip cord to connect your radio directly to the battery (or a power tap with both positive and negative terminals), fusing both leads.

Technical Web Site of the Week

The six-part "Antenna Interactions" series of *National Contest Journal* articles by K3NA are now available in the Bonus Content area of the NCJ website. Search for the phrase "Antenna Interactions" and you will find all six parts of the article.

<http://ncjweb.com/bonus/> (Thanks, Kirk, K4RO)

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 8 to 15 September 2014

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 September and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 11 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 13 September 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB



19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 September

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 17 September 2014

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2014/rsprint.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 12 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 13 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 12 September

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once

Get on the RaDAR....and GO!

RADAR
GOES GLOBAL

per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 14 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 September

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 14 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

FOC QSO Party

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 13 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: FOC-Member: RST, name and member no; non-Members: RST and name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: FOC-Member: Score = Total QSOs/Total Member QSOs; non-Member: Score = Total Member QSOs

Submit logs by: 27 September 2014

E-mail log summary to: kz5d@aol.com



Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://g4foc.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1440151>

WAE DX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 13 September to 23:59 UTC 14 September

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op (High/Low); Multi-Op; SWL

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours, off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Single: 48 hours

Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts

Exchange: RS and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 29 September 2014

E-mail logs to: waessb@dxhf.darc.de

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/wae/dc/en/rules/>

Kulikovo Polye Contest

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 13 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Low/High/Super)

Max power: Super: no limit; High: 1 000 W or less; Low: 100 W or less

Exchange: KP: RST and "KP"; non-KP: RST and serial no

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 28 September 2014

E-mail logs to: log@kpctest.ru

Upload log at:

http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.kpctest.ru/?pg=content/ruleen>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 13 September to 24:00 UTC 14 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 21 September 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Arkansas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 13 September to 02:00 UTC 14 September

Mode: CW, SSB, PSK

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 m

Classes: Single Op - SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW - low or high; RTTY/PSK31 Only; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile; Portable; Rover

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: AR: RS(T) and county; non-AR: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW/PSK/RTTY QSO; Bonus: 200 points per AA5AR or WR5P QSO

Multipliers: AR: Each AR county/state/province once and one "DX"; non-AR: Each AR county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 September 2014

E-mail logs to: arkqsoparty@cox.net

Mail logs to: Arkansas QSO Party, c/o Don Banta, K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdate, AR 72764, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.arkqsoparty.com/#rules/c205y>



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org 10
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp



North American SSB Sprint

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 14 September

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max operating hours: 4 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit/>

Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM, 12450 Del Valle Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

Next week's contests

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 17 September 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 September

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 18 September

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 19 September

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 September

AGB NEMIGA Contest, 21:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 September

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW, 12:00 UTC 20 September to 12:00 UTC 21 September

South Carolina QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 20 September to 03:00 UTC 21 September

QRP Afield, 15:00 UTC 20 September to 03:00 UTC 21 September

Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 UTC-18:00 UTC 20 September

Washington State Salmon Run, 16:00 UTC 20 September to 07:00 UTC 21 September 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 September

BARTG Sprint 75, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 21 September

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 22 September

History this Week

Week starting 8 September 2014



1716 - Boston Light, the first lighthouse in America was first lighted just before sunset

1833 - The first imported shipment of ice arrived in Calcutta, India, from Boston, Mass., US

1846 - Elias Howe patents the sewing machine

1853 - First electric telegraph in use, Merchant's Exchange to Pt Lobos

1908 - Orville Wright makes first 1-hour airplane flight, Fort Myer, Va

1958 - Jack Kilby demonstrated his invention of a miniaturized electronic circuit to his supervisor at Texas Instruments, now recognised as the first integrated circuit

1973 - First all Australian women's US Open final, (Court beats Goolagong)

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin



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And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp